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For Immediate Release
February 11, 2004

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Sen. Cropsey joins strong-marriage promotion effort

Lansing — Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, today joined fellow Michigan lawmakers in announcing a broad, bipartisan package of legislation designed to prepare couples for stronger marriages and, in case of divorce, lessen the negative effect on children.

“By helping increase the number of successful marriages, we increase the number of happy, healthy children,” Cropsey said. “My part of the package helps ensure couples are able to get marriage counseling to ensure the couple has a long, happy life together.”

Cropsey recently introduced Senate Bills 961 and 962. They would create a tax credit of up to \$50 to cover the cost of a premarital or marital education, or a counseling program for strengthening or preserving marriage. These programs would cover topics such as conflict management, communication skills, financial matters and parenting responsibilities. They would be at least four hours long and be conducted by qualified individuals, such as professional counselors, therapists or clergy members.

Other parts of the legislative package:

- Allow a clergy member to continue to legally offer marriage counseling after retirement;
- Require a parenting plan before a divorce is granted;
- Provide a marriage preservation tax credit; and,
- Promote divorce-effects education programs.

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